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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes #18

November 22, 2013

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:08AM on November 22, 2013 in the Dorothy Vocino Conference Room in the URI Library, Vice Chairperson Rice presiding. Senators Cerbo, Davis, and Nassersharif were present. Chairperson Byrd and Senator Brady were absent.

2. There were no minutes for approval.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS

a. Chairperson Byrd was attending another meeting on campus and said he would try to join the FSEC meeting before it adjourned.

4. NEW BUSINESS

The FSEC discussed a response to the notice, received on November 21, 2013, that the Rhode Island Board of Education would hold public forums at the campuses of the three institutions of higher education to present and solicit input on a draft plan for a proposed governance structure for the Board. The nature of Board's proposed plan was not disclosed in the notice. The FSEC decided to draft a memo to Chief of Staff (Rhode Island Department of Education) Clark Greene (appointed to assist the Office of Higher Education) to express appreciation for the planned forum (on the URI campus) and to bring his attention to the Association of Governing Boards (AGB) website (www.agb.org) to suggest that it might be a useful tool in establishing best practices in Rhode Island. The FSEC expressed concern that the BoE is not aware that the AGB is a resource for nationally recognized standards of governance for academic boards. Senator Cerbo said he would draft the memo.

5. ONGOING BUSINESS

a. The FSEC reviewed the agenda items for the upcoming (Nov. 25) meeting with the President.

b. Senator Nassersharif, the Administrator Evaluation Coordinator for the Faculty Senate, outlined in detail the steps of the evaluation process with particular attention to the development of the survey tool for each administrator. Although there are six surveys to administer this year, Senator Nassersharif expressed hope that the analyses will be complete by March 15th. Once the analyses are complete, the committees will meet with the administrator under review and subsequently with his or her direct supervisor. The committee will also meet with the faculty (and staff) who participated in the survey to provide feedback on the results of the survey. There was some discussion about the Provost's request for reporting aggregate results, i.e., summarizing the results within each category of survey questions.

c. The FSEC discussed the ongoing issue of arming URI campus police, particularly the nature of the non-violence training for law enforcement officers, and the plans for the forum. The FSEC discussed the possibility of making recommendations about the non-violence training and other non-violent interventions if the decision is made to arm the campus officers. They said that the intent of the non-violent forum is to open minds to the non-violent philosophy. The committee discussed the memo they are preparing for the President. Tentative dates for the forum will be added to the memo outlining the forum. Senator Davis will follow up with the potential participants about their availability.

d. The FSEC discussed the ongoing general education program revision and contingencies if the UCGE committee is unable to prepare a report to the Senate on the new program by December 13th as had been requested in the November 13, 2013 memo from Chairperson Byrd.

Chairperson Byrd joined the meeting at 11:45AM. FSEC members summarized the meeting discussions.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Senator Rice reported that Resolution #12-13--4, the MOA between URI and town of South Kingstown, was still in the office of the General Counsel.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff